

ERIK LARSEN TODD McFARLANE

SPAWN

image

266

DIGITAL
EDITION





ERIK LARSEN & TODD McFARLANE

PLOT, SCRIPT, LAYOUTS, PENCILS & INKS

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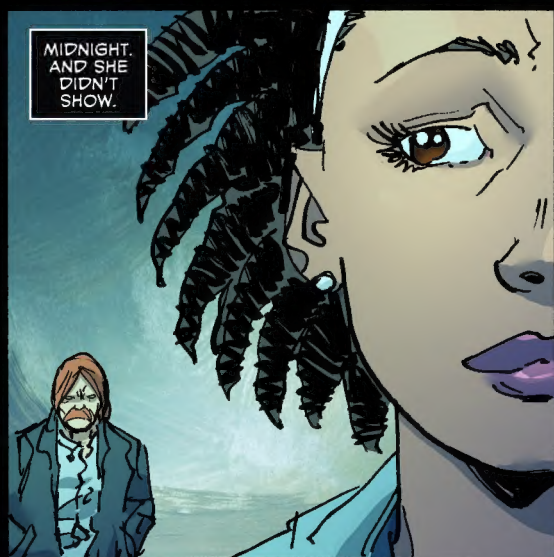
ANT created by
MARIO GULLY

SPAWN CREATED BY
TODD McFARLANE



PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN

Still unable to control his costume, Spawn has to rely on his military training to stay alive. He also knows that he can't fight evil alone and tries to recruit people he can trust. But what Spawn doesn't know, there are already people willing to fight by his side. On the other side of the city, Ant, another hero in town, is battling a villain who is threatening the entire water system. But she is unable to take down the creature without some help from Spawn. Once they team up and defeat the creature, Ant tells Spawn there are more allies in New Mexico and together, they plan to bring back an army to fight the new war on Earth.







PLEASE...

DON'T
BE
AFRAID.

BUT SHE IS, AND FOR
THE REST OF HER LIFE
WHenever SHE HAS TO
WALK THE STREETS ALONE,
SHE'LL BE LOOKING OVER
HER SHOULDER IN FEAR.

EVEN THOUGH
NOTHING HAPPENED TO
HER TONIGHT, FOR THE
REST OF HER DAYS SHE'LL
NEVER QUITE KNOW WHICH
OF US SCARED HER MORE.
THE PIECE OF SHIT LAYING
AT HER FEET...

OR ME.



WHY'D YOU BRING HER HERE? IT'S NOT SAFE.

I HAD NO CHOICE, MAXINE!

DIDN'T WANT TO TAKE HER TO THE POLICE STATION. WHO KNOWS WHERE THAT WOULD HAVE LED.

I DIDN'T WANT HER GETTING LOCKED UP OR HAVING HER SECRET IDENTITY REVEALED. AND DON'T GIVE ME THAT "BUT YOU'RE A COP" LOOK!



I JUST DON'T WANT YOU GETTING INTO TROUBLE. YOU **NEED** THIS JOB, MALCOLM. AND YOU NEED TO THINK ABOUT THIS FAMILY.

INSTEAD OF YOUR **ADDICTION** TO VIDEO GAMES, COMICS AND PORNOGRAPHY.



I CAN'T LET HER FALL INTO THE WRONG HANDS! THERE'S A **SUPER-HERO CODE**.

SHE'S NOT GOING TO HURT THE KIDS OR ANYTHING!

AND I DIDN'T REALLY HAVE ANYPLACE **ELSE** TO TAKE HER.



BESIDES, AN'T SAID THE VERY PLANET WAS AT STAKE!

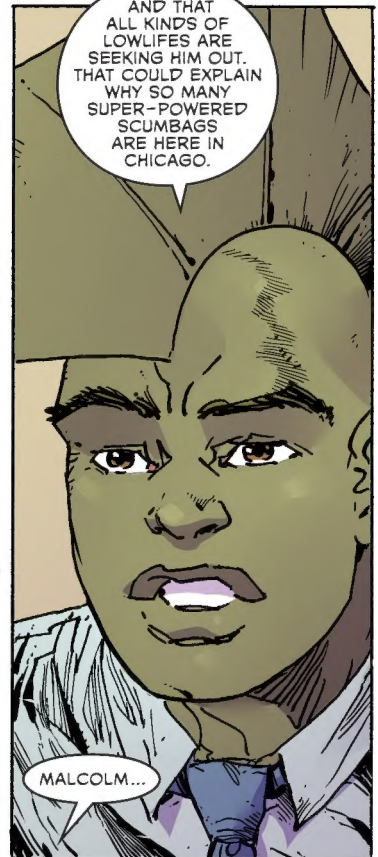
OH FOR GOD'S SAKE! THE PLANET IS ALWAYS AT STAKE. DON'T TELL ME YOU FELL FOR THAT OLD LINE?



KIND OF.

SHE'S VERY CONVINCING.

SHE SAID SOME GUY NAMED ALZAVAH STONE HAS THE ABILITY TO GIVE PEOPLE SUPERPOWERS.



AND THAT ALL KINDS OF LOWLIFES ARE SEEKING HIM OUT. THAT COULD EXPLAIN WHY SO MANY SUPER-POWERED SCUMBAGS ARE HERE IN CHICAGO.

MALCOLM...



YOUR LATEX-WEARING FETISH DOLL IS WAKING UP.

WHERE...



AM I?



I BROUGHT YOU TO MY APARTMENT.

IF I'M GOING TO HELP YOU ROUND UP THAT 'STONE' CHARACTER I COULDN'T HAVE YOU ROTTING IN POLICE CUSTODY.



OPEN UP! I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE!

BANG BANG

HANG ON, I'M COMING.

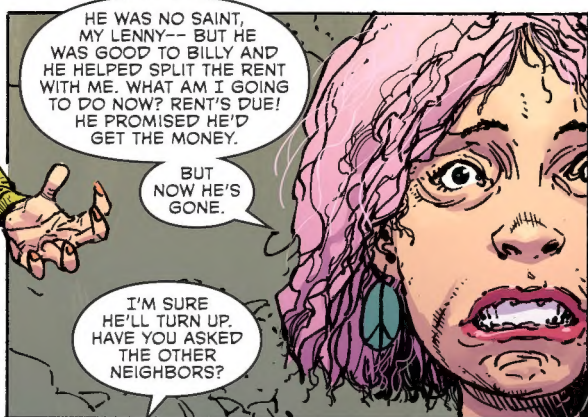
LENNY?

WHERE'S MY LENNY?
HE'S MISSING.
HAVE YOU SEEN HIM?!



NO. CAN'T SAY I HAVE.*

*Actually, Al did, last issue. --Todd



HE WAS NO SAINT, MY LENNY-- BUT HE WAS GOOD TO BILLY AND HE HELPED SPLIT THE RENT WITH ME. WHAT AM I GOING TO DO NOW? RENT'S DUE! HE PROMISED HE'D GET THE MONEY.

BUT NOW HE'S GONE.

I'M SURE HE'LL TURN UP. HAVE YOU ASKED THE OTHER NEIGHBORS?

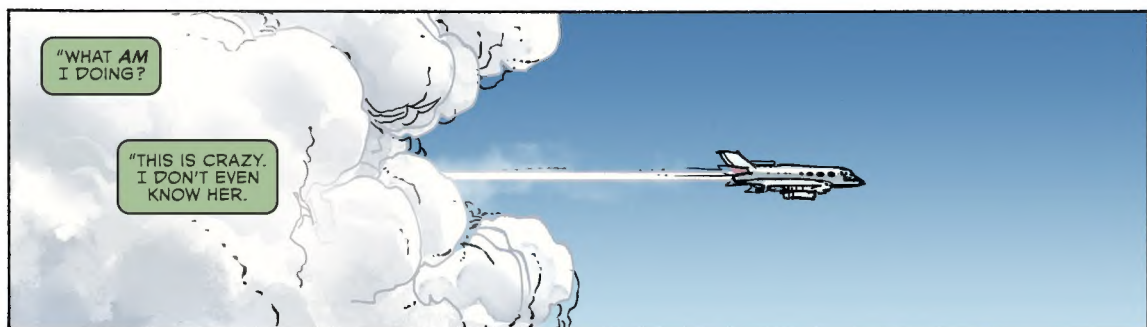


ALL OF THEM! THEY DON'T KNOW NOTHING! BUT HE TALKED ABOUT YOU SOME.

LIKE I SAID, I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM. NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME.



SHE'LL FIGURE OUT SHE'S BETTER OFF WITHOUT HIM. IT'S JUST GOING TO TAKE HER A LITTLE TIME, BECAUSE EVEN ASSHOLES CAN CHARM THEIR WAY INTO PEOPLE'S HEARTS.





"WOW! THAT SEEMED LIKE THE LONGEST TRIP I'VE EVER MADE. MAN, COULD THAT GUY TALK!"



HEY... MALCOLM DRAGON!

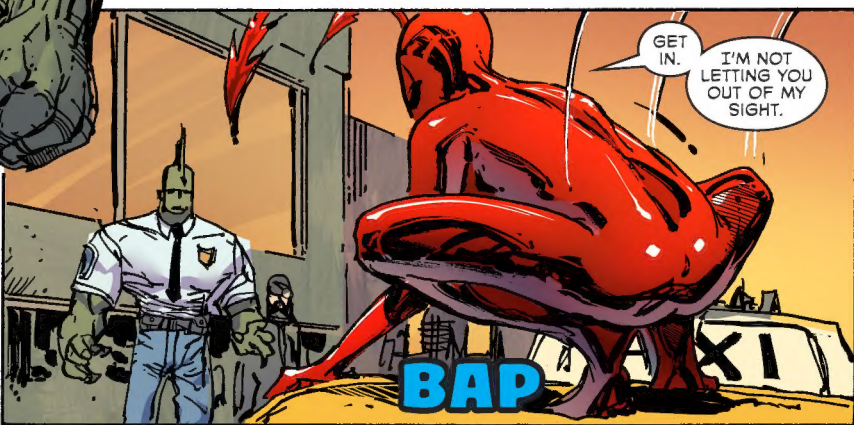
YOU NEED A LIFT, BIG SHOT?



SURE.

WHERE'RE YOU HEADING?

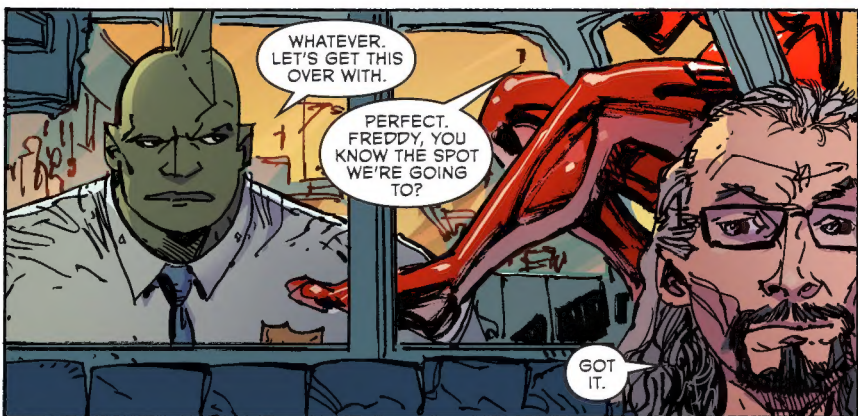
DON'T KNOW. I WAS SUPPOSED TO MEET SOMEONE BUT SHE DIDN'T...



GET IN.

I'M NOT LETTING YOU OUT OF MY SIGHT.

BAP

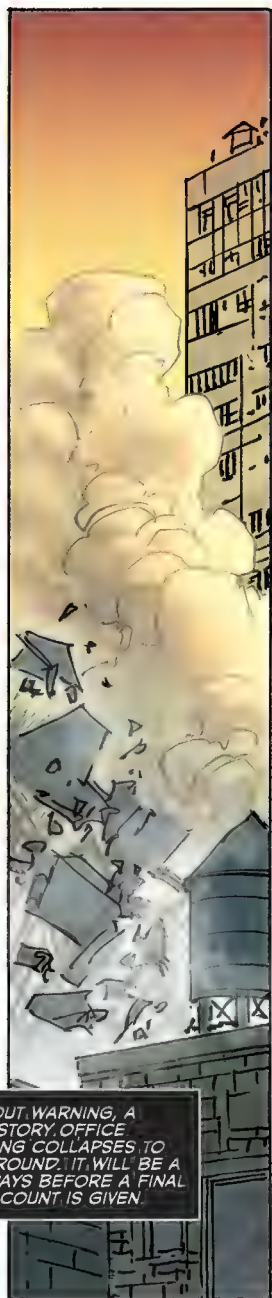
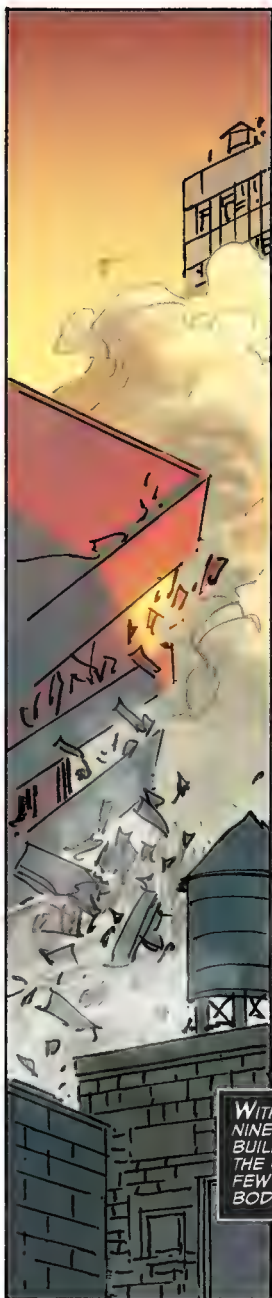
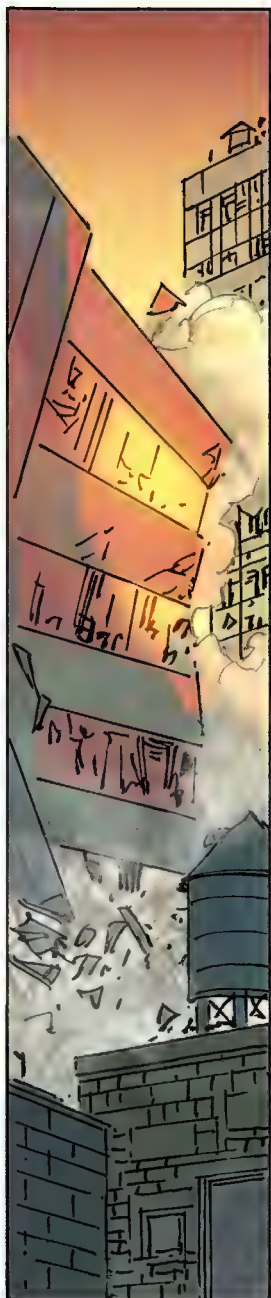
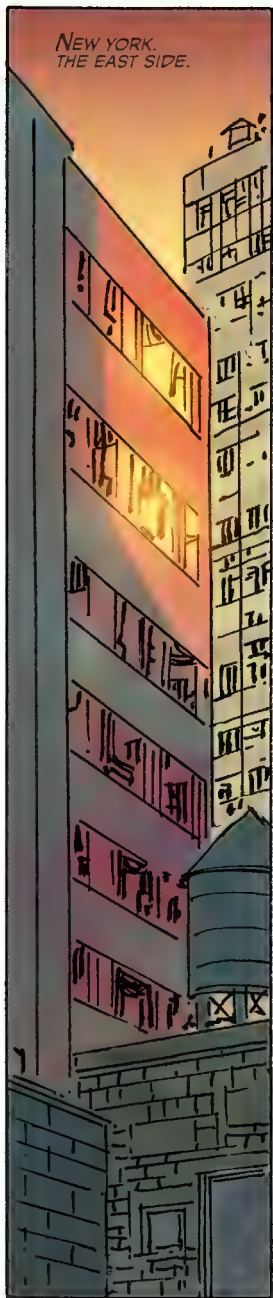


WHATEVER. LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH.

PERFECT. FREDDY, YOU KNOW THE SPOT WE'RE GOING TO?

GOT IT.

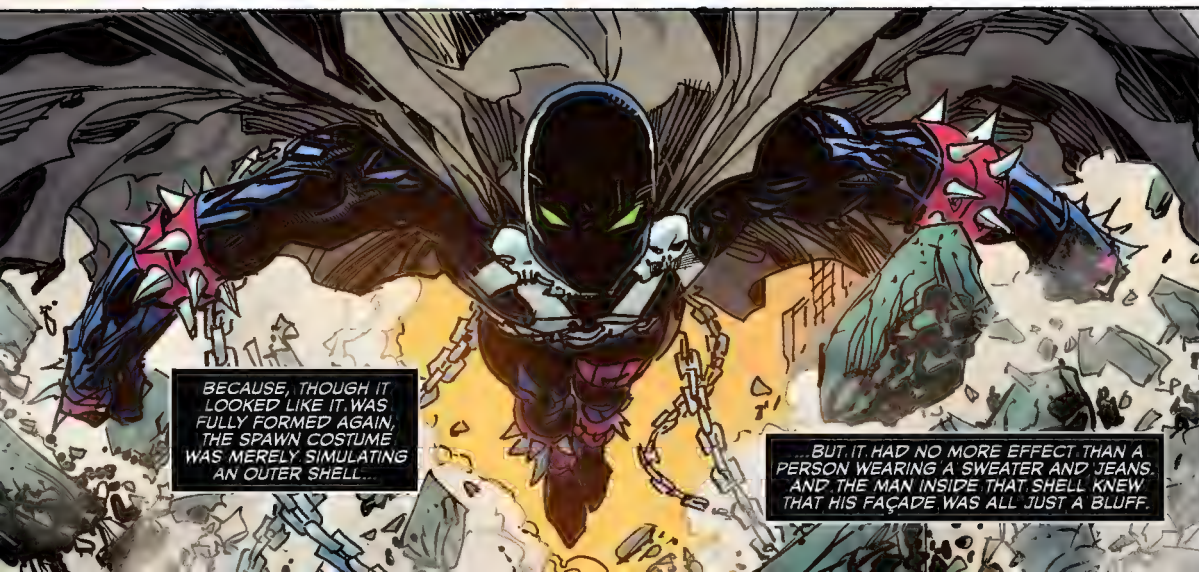
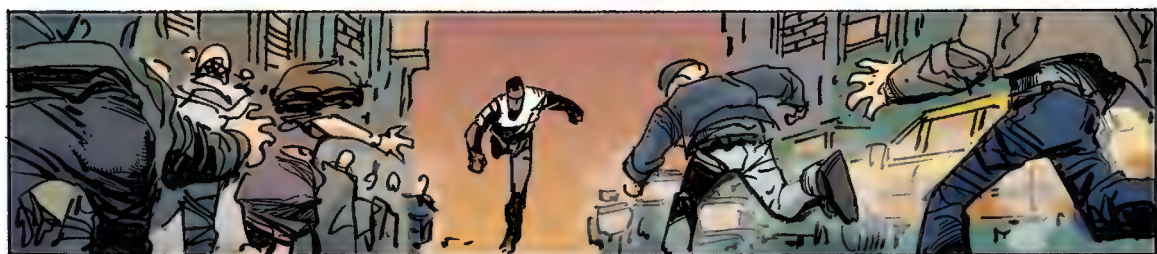
NEW YORK,
THE EAST SIDE.

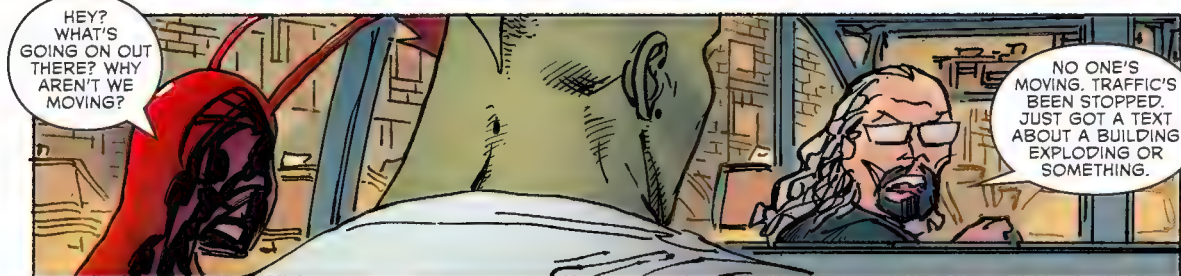


WITHOUT WARNING, A
NINE-STORY OFFICE
BUILDING COLLAPSES TO
THE GROUND. IT WILL BE A
FEW DAYS BEFORE A FINAL
BODY COUNT IS GIVEN.

WHAT THE NEWS WILL MENTION
IS THE SIGHT OF A MAN NOT RUNNING
AWAY FROM THE CARNAGE,
BUT, INSTEAD, HE RAN TOWARDS
THE DESTRUCTION.







WHEN THEY ARRIVE, IT'S FAR WORSE THAN EITHER COULD IMAGINE. THE CATASTROPHIC DAMAGE FROM THE FALLEN STRUCTURE: THE SCENE OF CARNAGE OF MUTILATED BODIES OF SO MANY INNOCENTS, AND DOZENS OF ANIMAL-LIKE CREATURES POURING OUT OF THE EPICENTER'S CREVICE.

STOP THEM, MY ARMY. THEN BRING THEM TO ME!

MONSTRESS COMMANDS YOU!

THEY ALSO SEE THE CLOAKED HERO SPAWN ACROSS THE STREET. AND WHEN HE NOTICES THEM, THEY COLLECTIVELY KNOW THEY CAN USE AS MUCH HELP AS POSSIBLE.

ANT HAD MENTIONED THE MAGNITUDE OF WHAT SHE HAS BEEN FIGHTING AGAINST, BUT WHEN SHE DIDN'T SHOW FOR HER MEETING WITH SPAWN, HE THOUGHT HE HAD BEEN CONNED. BUT NOW HE SEES IT'S WORSE THAN SHE DESCRIBED.



SHE HAD MENTIONED THE "OTHERS." THIS LOOKS TO BE ONE OF THEM.

THEN SPAWN RECALLS; THIS IS THE MAN THEY CALL 'DRAGON.' AL MET HIS DAD YEARS AGO IN A BIZARRE CONFRONTATION IN HELL.*



*Way back in issue 52--TODD

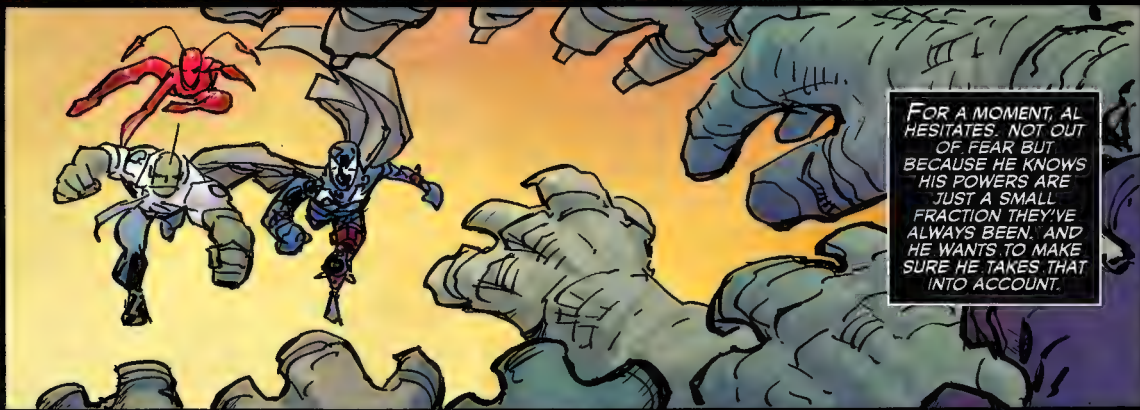
HOW HE HOOKED UP WITH ANT, HE'LL ASK LATER, BECAUSE THOUGH SHE FAILED TO SHOW FOR THEIR MIDNIGHT MEETING, THIS IS THE SECOND TIME SHE HAS COME TO HIS AID.



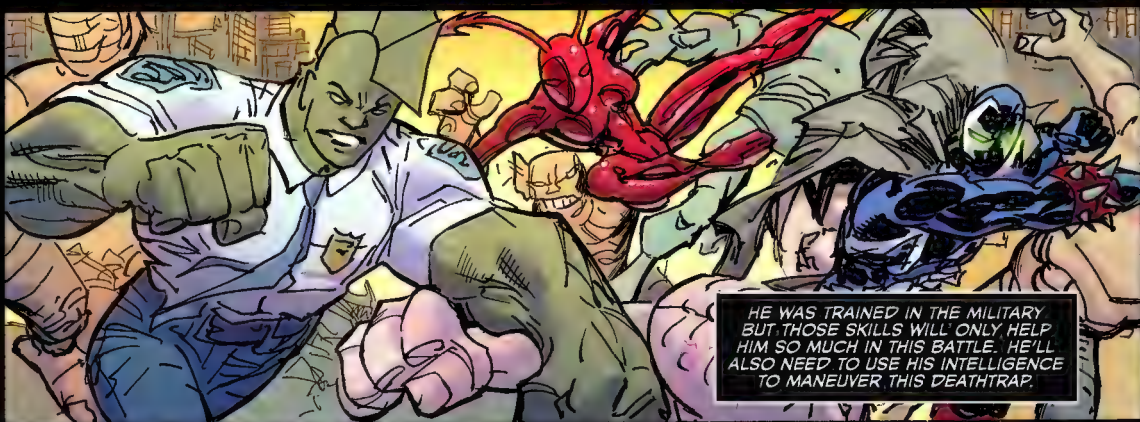
THEY'RE POWERFUL-- BUT NO MATCH FOR US!

STOP THEM!

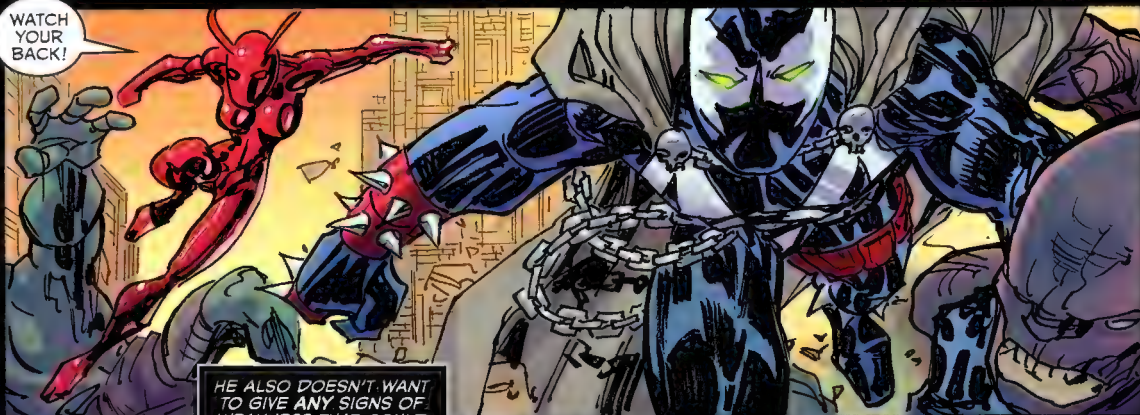




FOR A MOMENT, AL
HESITATES, NOT OUT
OF FEAR BUT
BECAUSE HE KNOWS
HIS POWERS ARE
JUST A SMALL
FRACTION THEY'VE
ALWAYS BEEN, AND
HE WANTS TO MAKE
SURE HE TAKES THAT
INTO ACCOUNT.

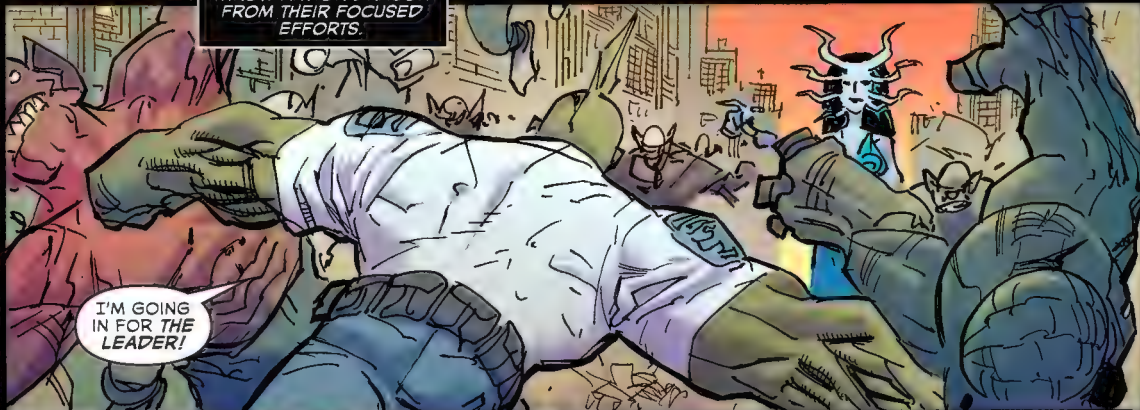


HE WAS TRAINED IN THE MILITARY
BUT THOSE SKILLS WILL ONLY HELP
HIM SO MUCH IN THIS BATTLE. HE'LL
ALSO NEED TO USE HIS INTELLIGENCE
TO MANEUVER THIS DEATHTRAP.



WATCH
YOUR
BACK!

HE ALSO DOESN'T WANT
TO GIVE ANY SIGNS OF
WEAKNESS THAT COULD
THROW ANT OR DRAGON
FROM THEIR FOCUSED
EFFORTS.



I'M GOING
IN FOR THE
LEADER!



I WON'T
RESIST
YOU.



AND
YOU WON'T
RESIST
ME.



IT HAPPENS. IN A
MATTER OF SECONDS.



A MUTATION
TO THE
DRAGON THAT
DRIVES HIM
WILD!

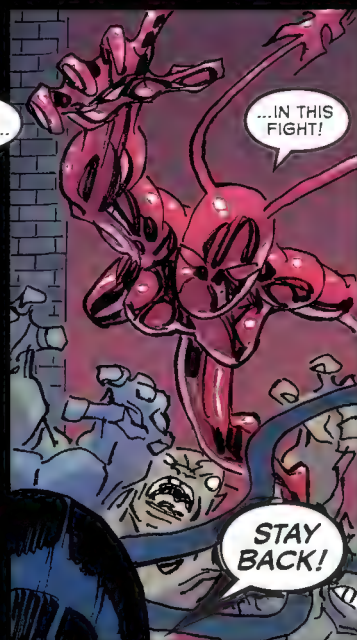
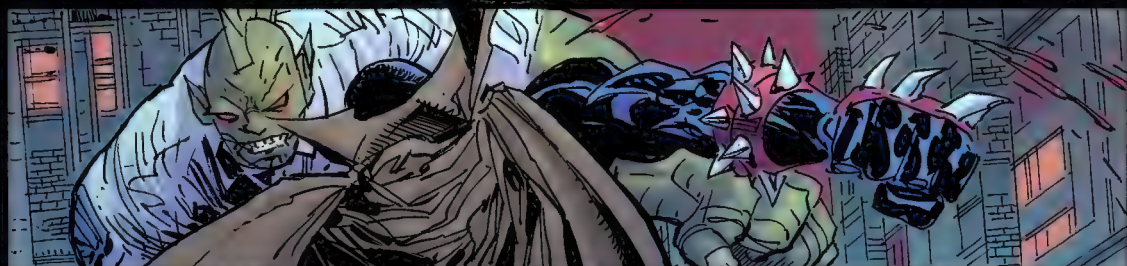
**GO,
SEEDLING!**

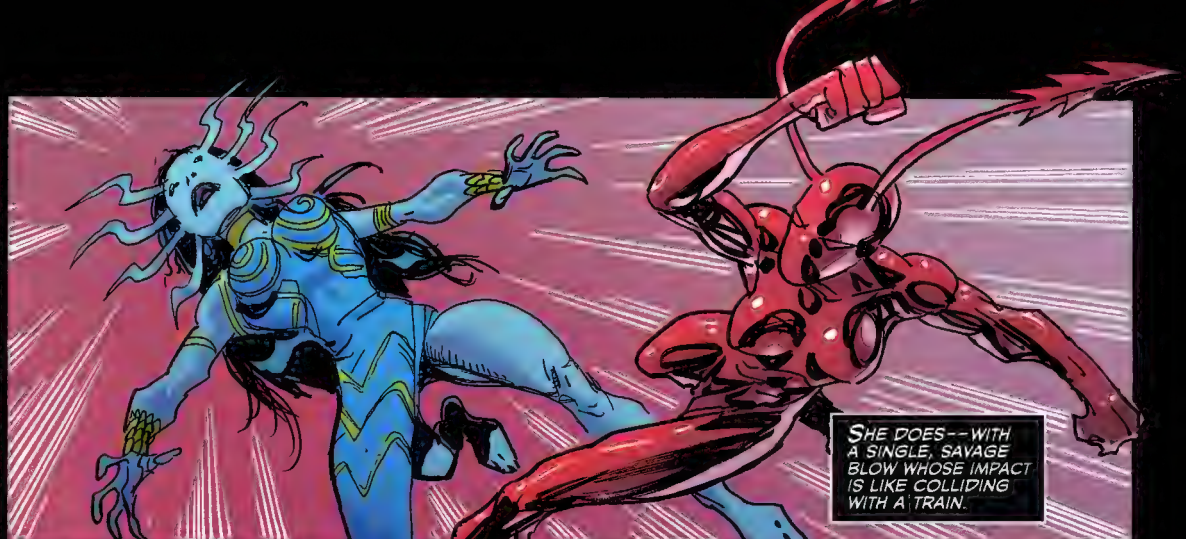
SEIZE
THE OTHERS!
YOUR **QUEEN**
COMMANDS
IT!



SPAWN!
WE CAN'T
DO THIS! NOT
WITHOUT
DRAGON.

I DON'T
NEED THAT KIND
OF TALK! WE'RE
HERE! AND I'M
NOT TURNING
BACK!









"...LET'S GET
DRAGON AND TAKE
THIS WAR TO THEM!"

HEY!

OVER
HERE!



ALL
RIGHT! SO
WHAT'S THE
PLAN?



WE GO TO
NEW MEXICO
AND BRING THE
FIGHT TO THEM.
TIME TO MESS
WITH THEIR
HOUSE!

THAT'S
MUSIC TO MY
EARS.



WHEN
DO WE
LEAVE?



I'M TRYING TO FINALIZE
THINGS SINCE WE CAN'T--AS
I'M SURE YOU APPRECIATE--
FLY COMMERCIAL LIKE
NORMAL FOLKS.

WHAT'S
THAT MEAN,
"FINALIZE
THINGS"?

LET'S JUST
SAY I KNOW
A GUY... AND HE
OWES ME A
FAVOR. BIG
TIME!

SPAWNING GROUND

Hello All,

I'm so excited for this issue. As a comic book fan, it's been surreal to be able to work with Todd and Erik on a crossover Spawn/Savage Dragon issue!

For those of you who are new to *Spawn* or don't know the story of Erik and Todd, I'll give you a quick history lesson. Back in late 1991, seven of the top artists in the industry: Todd McFarlane, Erik Larsen, Jim Lee, Jim Valentino, Whilce Portacio, Rob Liefeld and Marc Silvestri banded together and went into both Marvel and DC Comics one day and quit.

They started their own comic book company called Image Comics, which gave the creators full rights to their work.

Image Comics is built on the foundation that the creator owns their own work, which was and still is a huge deal for artists and writers. And after almost 25 years, Image Comics has become the **THIRD** largest comic book company behind Marvel and DC Comics.

For this month's Spawning Ground, we wanted to highlight a small sampling of comic covers that feature Todd and Erik and their individual creations together.

Enjoy.

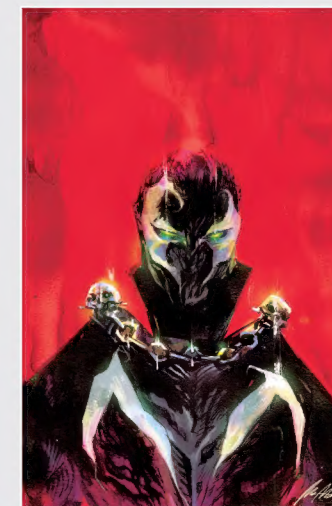
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NEXT ISSUE
Spawn/Savage Dragon crossover!



SPAWN KILLS EVERYONE!
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-Jonathan Hickman
(*East of West, The Manhattan Projects*)



HEAD LOPPER™

& THE ISLAND or A PLAGUE OF BEASTS



Written and Drawn by
ANDREW MACLEAN

Colored by
MIKE SPICER



VOL.1 TPB
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HELLSPAWN™

TODD McFARLANE'S HELL-BORN HERO COLLECTED. COMPLETELY.

Todd McFarlane's *Spawn* was a hero unlike any that came before. A government agent, Al Simmons was killed by his own men. Resurrected from the depths of hell, he returned to earth as the warrior Spawn. As he wandered in search of his past, Spawn grappled with the dark forces that returned him to Earth. As he learned to harness his newfound extraordinary powers, he began to grasp the full extent of what brought him back — and what he left behind.

Hellspawn unleashed a dark new era in *Spawn* lore. This next step in the evolution of Todd McFarlane's hell-born creation combined the creative minds of industry giants **Brian Michael Bendis**, **Steve Niles**, **Ashley Wood** and **Ben Templesmith**. Together, they redefined the myths of the *Hellspawn*.

The *Hellspawn Complete Collection* includes the entire classic *Hellspawn* series in its entirety in one hardcover, oversized book, complete with a cover gallery and bonus art that is sure to please longtime *Spawn* fans as well as win over new ones.



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